



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,051	11/26/2003	Lester F. Ludwig	A8681	8319
23373	7590	02/09/2006	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			DINH, DUNG C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2153	

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/722,051	LUDWIG ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Dung Dinh	2153	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4,8-15,17,19-21,23,24 and 26-36 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4,8-15,17,19-21,23,24 and 26-36 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/15/2005 have been fully considered.

The obviousness double patenting over patent 6,351,762 is withdrawn.

The argument is not persuasive with respect to the provisional obviousness double patenting. Applicant provided a summary comparing the amended claims on page 10 of the remark. As evidence by applicant summary of the claims, at least claim 1's of the '385/'905, '345 (10/721,343), and '051 applications are still substantially identical. The only different the '385/'905 and '051 is the phrase "no matter where the user is located". This feature is inherent from the use of the service record in claim 1 of the '385/'905 applications.

Regarding claim 1 of the '345 (10/721,343) application, the claim was amended to recite a quick dial list created from a list of all users. This language is not present in claims 1 of the '385/'905 and '051. However, the 'quick dial' list is equivalent to the 'personalized list' recited in the '385/'905 and '051 applications. Populating a personalized list using data from a master list clearly would have been obvious to one

Art Unit: 2153

of ordinary skill in the art. Hence, claim 1 of '345 is not patentably distinct from claims 1 of '385/'905 and '051.

The provisional obviousness double patenting is maintained.

Regarding the rejection under 103, the argument is moot view of new ground of rejection below.

Claims 1-4, 8-15, 17, 19-21, 23-24, 26-36 are pending for examination.

Claim Rejections - Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-36 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-36 of Application No. 10/721,343;

Art Unit: 2153

claims 1-42 of Application 10/721,905; and claims 1-42 of Application 10/721,385. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because they recite substantially equivalent limitations or obvious variation thereof. This is a provisional rejection because the claims are not in fact patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 8-15, 17, 19-21, 23-24, 26-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Michael Banks "America Online: A Graphics Based Success Evaluation", and further in view of Baumgartner et al. US patent 5,195,086, and Marshak "Beyond Mail for Windows" and Kamerman et al. US patent 5,519,834, Vin et al. "Multimedia Conferencing in the Etherphone Environment".

Art Unit: 2153

As per claim 1, Banks discloses American Online (AOL) is a system for real-time communication between plurality of separated users essentially as claimed, comprising:

- a) providing communication device having associated display (the users' computer terminals);
- b) at least one communication network to which the users log on (AOL network);
- c) at least one service record for the first and second logged in users [apparent in order to indicate if a member is currently online. See page 3 first paragraph]; the service record including user identification (screen names) and associated location where the user is logged in no matter where they are located (page 3 1st paragraph see "where a member is from").
- e) collaboration initiation software that functions to cause retrieval of necessary addressing information of the second user and to cause the establishing of a connection between the first and second user (apparent in order to establishing real-time conference and "instant-message" between users. See bottom of page 2 to top of page 3);
 - wherein the system is configured to indicate to a user whether another user is not logged in (apparent from top of page

Art Unit: 2153

3 that a check to see whether a member is online would return a status of 'not logged in' if the member is not online).

Banks does not specifically disclose element d) computer software for displaying user identifiers with graphical icons for selection by the first user to establish a communication. In similar field of real time conferencing, Baumgartner teaches a conferencing system with directory displaying a list of available participants using icons for easy selection [see fig.18, col.15 lines 46-45, col.18 lines 57-60]. AOL advantage of over other system at the time was the use of graphics (see page 1). Baumgartner discloses that graphical user interface is "an important idea for the conference room notion" (col.15 liens 42-45). Hence, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Baumgartner with AOL system to display user name along with graphical icons because it would have enabled the user to visually associate member with the icon and provided graphical means of selecting the participants for conferencing.

Baumgartner does not specifically disclose a selecting user identifier from a personalized list. Marshak discloses that it is known in the computer collaborative art to provide global and private directories to look up users of the system (address books - see page 4 "Managing address book"). It would have been

Art Unit: 2153

obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a personalized list because it would have enable the user to more efficiently group and identify participants he wished to collaborate with instead of browsing through a long master list containing all users of the system.

As per claim 2, AOL system is capable of text messaging ("instant-messaging").

As per claim 3, Banks and Baumgartner do not specifically disclose a wireless device. Computer with wireless network access is well known in the art at the time of the invention (for example see Kameraman col.1). Wireless network connection reduces physical wiring and permits the computer to roam about. Hence, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have a communication device being wireless device because it would have enabled the user to be mobile while participating in a conference.

As per claim 4, Users geographically remote from each other may logged on and participate in real-time conference. Hence AOL constitutes a wide area network as claimed. Furthermore Baumgartner teaches the communication network is a wide area network (fig.14, 15).

Art Unit: 2153

As per claim 8, Baumgartner discloses adding new user to an existing communication (col.17 lines 22+, merging and splitting calls).

As per claims 9-10, Baumgartner teaches the permitting a user to participating in multiple conferences at the same time (col.2 lines 6-15, col.18 lines 14-20). Baumgartner does not specifically disclose notifying of attempt to communicate by a third user. In similar field of computer conferencing, Vin teaches to automatic notifying user of attempt to communicate [page 77 col.2 ringing] and permit a user to participate in multiple conferences [page 78 col.3]. It have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide notification to alert user of attempt to communicate with him so as alert the user to pending call while still participating in another conversation.

As per claim 11, Banks and Baumgartner teach allowing user to send email [Banks page 2 last paragraph 'e-mail' and Baumgartner col.14 lines 22].

As per claims 12 and 13, Baumgartner teaches the conference including sending picture/video image of participant (col.14 lines 30-341).

Art Unit: 2153

As per claims 14-15, 17, 19-21, 23-4, 26-28, they are rejected under similar rationale as claims 1-4 and 8-13 above. Baumgartner teaches the permitting a user to participating in multiple conferences at the same time (col.2 lines 6-15, col.18 lines 14-20). Baumgartner does not specifically disclose notifying of attempt to communicate by a third user. In similar field of computer conferencing, Vin teaches to automatic notifying user of attempt to communicate [page 77 col.2 ringing] and permit a user to participate in multiple conferences [page 78 col.3]. It have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to provide notification to alert user of attempt to communicate with him so as alert the user to pending call while still participating in another conversation.

As per claims 29-36, they are rejected under similar rationale as claims 1-4 and 8-13 above. Banks and Baumgartner do not specifically disclose a wireless device. Computer with wireless network access is well known in the art at the time of the invention (for example see Kameraman col.1). Wireless network connection reduces physical wiring and permits the computer to roam about. Hence, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have a communication device

Art Unit: 2153

being wireless device because it would have enabled the user to be mobile while participating in a conference.

Prior Art Cited

The following references are cited but not used are deemed relevant to the claimed invention:

"BeyondMail for Intelligent Messaging/Windows - Quick Reference" discloses using a master address book (Street Talk) to create personal private address book (see page 2).

IBM TDB "Automatic Query of the Recipient ID upon Sending a Distribution" discloses displaying list of user ID who are currently online to enable a user to make a selection.

JP 2002441 discloses displaying a menu including name and terminal location of user to select so as to make a call.

JP 1318136 discloses record of user logon and logoff status.

Conclusion

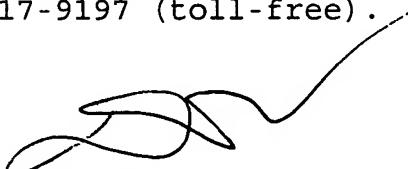
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung Dinh whose telephone number is (571) 272-3943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Art Unit: 2153

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached at (571) 272-3949.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dung Dinh
Primary Examiner
January 20, 2006